



Fire Program Analysis

Wanted: Instructors to conduct Fire Program Analysis training courses, Historic Analysis and the Preparedness Module. Please call Brian Eldredge for more information at: 208-947-3787

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For more information call Venetia
Gempler at
208-947-3786 or visit
<http://fpa.nifc.gov>

Current Topics:

- Revised Completion Dates
- Transition Planning
- Transition Plan Considerations
- Establishing FPU Boards of Directors
- Creating FPU Charters
- Budget formulation
- FPA Training Update

FPA Software Updates

[PCHA version 1.2.17](#)

FPA-PM version 1.1 released
January 18, 2005 incorporates
requirements for Wildland Fire Use.

FPA-PM version 1.2 - schedule for
release on February 15, 2005,
incorporates budget
formulation/allocation and
personnel support, program
leadership and other program
support calculations.

Tiger Teams

Members of the Core Team, the
Implementation Coordination
Group, and the contractor
developing the application, are
visiting the four prototype areas to
validate and verify that FPA-PM is

■ **Revised Completion Dates:** The deadline for the targeted Phase 1 Fire Planning Units (FPUs) (approximately 39) expected to complete FPA-PM analysis has been changed from February 15, 2005 to March 1, 2005 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 budget formulation. Review and certification of the FPA-PM process will not be required.

Line officers for the FPU must review the analysis results before submission. They will not be required to sign-off on the budget submission for FY 07 due to time constraints.

In 2006, 100 percent of the FPUs will complete FPA-PM analysis, the Region/State and National component will be added and the outcomes will be used to formulate the Fiscal Year 2008 budget request. Review and certification of the process will be required. Direction on the deadlines is forth coming.

■ **Transition Planning:** The draft FPA National Transition Plan is a work in progress and will require periodic updates. The plan has been reviewed and accepted by the interagency National Fire and Aviation Executive Board. The National Transition Plan will be finalized and formally distributed to all field offices once the Departments and other offices have been briefed.

As Phase 2 modules are completed the National Transition Plan will be modified to incorporate potential impacts and module interactions. Transitioning from the current fire planning and budgeting systems, and the pace of applying potential budget and organizational changes will require management's attention, input, and actions. This plan outlines changes and activities over a five year time frame (2005-2009) that relate to eight specific action items. Those items are:

- Budget Formulation
- Budget Allocation
- Transition Actions at the Fire Planning Unit (FPU) Level
- Transition Actions at the State/Regional Levels
- Transitions Actions at the National Level
- FPU Boundaries
- Phase 1 Participation, Completion, Process Review and Certification
- Phase 2 Development and Enhancements to Phase 1.

■ **Transition Plan Considerations:** This year, initial implementation of

working the way it is intended. The group is identifying issues and troubleshooting as the system is run.

The term "Tiger Team" is used in the computer industry to identify a group of programmers or users tasked to expose holes in new software or identify security vulnerabilities. Taken from the U.S. military, a tiger is given the job of trying to break through security around a military base or special restricted area.

Fire Program Analysis (FPA)

is a new system designed to help wildland fire managers plan and budget a common interagency fire management program at the landscape scale. FPA will display how well the fire management program achieves land management goals and objectives at different cost levels.

TechNews is a technical newsletter developed to provide detailed information and updates regarding the software used in FPA.

The Different Faces of FPA

The Core Team

is an interagency group incorporating wildland fire management concepts, goals and objectives into the design of the FPA modules. They interface with the Implementation Coordination Group and coordinate with the contractor on developing the analysis software for FPA modules.

The Implementation Coordination Group (ICG)

The ICG members are the liaisons to the agency field units. They provide feedback to the Core Team

the FPA Preparedness Module (FPA-PM) is being used by a third of the nation's Fire Planning Units (FPUs). By February, 2006, 100% of the nation's FPUs with federal lands will have completed at least one run of the Preparedness module. Early in Fiscal Year 2007, line officers will see repeatable FPA-PM results.

Phase 1, FPA-PM only addresses the initial response portion of the Preparedness budget activity, also known as the Preparedness budget line item. Until all FPUs have completed Phase 1 and Phase 2 of FPA, the full magnitude of organizational, fiscal, and programmatic changes cannot be fully determined.

Caution must be taken regarding implementing initial FPA-PM results affecting numbers and locations of personnel and fire resources. For example, links exist between fuels management and preparedness positions and fire resources. There are also links between prevention, extended attack, and large fire support. The preparedness module output by itself may indicate a need to reduce personnel and fire resources over a range of budgets. However, when the remaining modules are completed may show an increase is needed.

■ **Establishing FPU Board of Directors:** FPUs are the geographic zones defined for the interagency fire program analysis. An FPU is defined by local land managers. All agencies (federal, tribal, state, and local) with wildland fire management responsibility within an FPU are potential partners in the analysis. Currently, only five federal agencies have been directed to participate in the development and use of the FPA analysis for fire planning and budgeting. Approximately 140 FPU boundaries have been established and cover most of the surface area of the United States.

The FPU Board of Directors consists of line officers or in their absence their designees (deputies) from the respective administrative units. They are responsible for overall management of the planning and budgeting process. This entails but is not limited to the following:

- Conflict resolution
- Ensure that Fire Management Plans are current; adequately represent the goals and objectives of the Land Management Plans, and the FPA nonmonetized weighting system reflects the goals and objectives of the land and fire management plans.
- Distribution of FPU funding among administrative units
- Decisions on implementation timeframes

■ **Creating FPU Charters:** The FPUs represent a higher level of collaboration and coordination among the five federal wildland fire management agencies, with the potential to extend to the states, tribal and local partners. Consequently, documenting these relationships and the roles and responsibilities of partners within an FPU is essential. A Charter will help ensure that consistent implementation is coordinated by all participating agencies. Therefore, each FPU will be required to develop a Charter to guide them through these activities.

- [A sample template](#) is provided that will simplify developing these Charters. It is not a required format, so FPUs may customize it to meet local management needs. At minimum, each FPU must establish an FPU Board of Directors and use the common terms

and Steering Committee regarding implementation of FPA, and they are the subject matter experts assisting the FPA application Help Desk. They have also developed Phase 1 user and reference guides, training materials and courses, and the review and certification of the FPA process .

The **Steering Committee** manages the project and provides guidance and direction.

• **Steve Botti**,
National Park Service

• **Lyle Carlile**,
Bureau of Indian Affairs

• **Brian McManus**,
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

• **Aden Seidlitz and
Lynne Willoughby**, Bureau of Land
Management

• **Bill Breedlove and
Dave Cleaves**
U.S.D.A Forest Service

and titles.

- The Charters must be signed by all the field line officers participating in the FPU. These managers may include federal, state, tribal, and local representatives. Each signing member should possess an original version of their FPU's Charter. Charters will need to be periodically reviewed and updated.
- Official direction to establish Charters for the entire nation's Fire Planning Units is pending. It is anticipated that FPU Charters will be required to be developed on or about March 1, 2005; the same date as the initial targeted FPUs are to complete their Fiscal Year 2007 budget submission.

■ **Budget Formulation:** FPA will support the development of the Fiscal Year 2007 Preparedness portion of the wildland fire management budget. Budget formulation for Fiscal Year 2007 is planned to be a combination of FPA-PM analysis and existing budget formulation systems. The FPA cost effective analysis optimization process will be used for FPUs that complete the analysis by March 1, 2005. Besides supporting the budget justification, the analysis will be used to display what will be available in the subsequent years, such as a [cost effectiveness frontier](#).

■ **FPA Training will resume in March 2005:** Dates and locations to be announced. FPA Courses include:

- 1. Historic Analysis** focuses on compiling historic weather and fire occurrence data compatible to run FPA-PM.
- 2. FPA-PM** explains the workings of the entire preparedness module and inputs Historic Analysis data to run the system to find the most efficient and effective preparedness levels at different cost frontiers.